Poem 107

KINKAKUJI

(GOLDEN PAVILION)

THE RELIQUARY SHRINE CONSTRUCTED BY SHOUGUN ASHIKAGA YOSHIMITSU IS ESPECIALLY FAMOUS

AND PART OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

OFFICIAL NAME: ROKUONJI

(DEER GARDEN TEMPLE)

ガビーン!!

CHI-CHAN ...?

I THINK I'M GOING BLIND...

GOLD-EN...

GOLD-EN...

GOLDEN...

ピカーッ

REALLY GOLDEN.

CHI-CHAN, LET'S TAKE A PICTU-

NEVER EXPECTED IT TO HAVE SUCH A BRIGHT GOLDEN SHINE.

THIS PARADISE FEEL IT GIVES OFF IS SOMETHING ELSE...

GOLD ...

CHI-CHAN!

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT ALL NIGHT;

AND I COULD COME UP WITH ONLY ONE REASON.

CHI-CHA...

"MASHIMA ONLY HAS THE NOW

TO DO EVERYTHING HE CAN IN KARUTA..."

I DIDN'T KNOW, TAICHI.

I HAD NO IDEA

THAT TAICHI

IS ACTUALLY SERIOUS ABOUT BECOMING THE MEIJIN!

ヒカ

SCREEECH

We're sorry! We're really sorry!

SENSEI, PLEASE DON'T MAKE THOSE VIOLENT SWINGS!

YOU STOPPED A TAXI WITH THEM!

SKIPPING HIS SCHOOL FIELD TRIP,

THAT'S HOW SERIOUS HE IS

His own floor pillow!

MATSUGE-KUN EVEN WENT AS FAR AS

I HAD NO IDEA.

ABOUT BECOMING THE MEIJIN.

HARADA-SENSEI IS GOING TO COMPETE THIS YEAR, AS WELL ...?

BEING RECKLESS AGAIN.

SO EAGER EVEN THOUGH HE'S A 57 YEAR OLD FOOL ALREADY.

KEH

ME.

JUST LIKE

EASTERN JAPAN QUEEN AND MEIJIN QUALIFIER VENUE

OOTSUKA KARUTA MEETING HALL

ズキン

ズキン

GO FOR THE MEIJIN

AWW~~ THIS IS EMBARRASSING, MAYU-TAN. ♡

EVEN IF I'M MOVING UP CLASSES AT A BREAKNECK SPEED, WHICH YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY,

IT'S STILL TOO SOON FOR ME TO BECOME THE MEIJIN.

No, not for you, Akkun~ ♡

嵐

プル プル プル プル プル

DAMN! I WAS SUPPOSED TO BECOME CLASS A BEFORE THE EASTERN QUALIFIER AND CATCH UP TO MASHIMA!

WHAT DECIDED THE OUTCOME OF MY MATCH AGAINST HIM IN THE YOSHINO SOCIETY TOURNAMENT WAS THE FAULT I HAD COMMITED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE GAME.

IN TERMS OF RAW ABILITY, I'M BETTER!

WHAT DECIDED THE OUTCOME OF THAT MATCH AGAINST HIM WAS THE FAULT I HAD MADE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE GAME.

IN TERMS OF RAW ABILITY, I'M DEFINITELY THE BETTER ONE!

瑞沢

EXCUSE ME,

I SIGNED UP TO PARTICIPATE, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO CANCEL MY ENTRY NOW.

"LET'S SAY THAT THE ONE WHO LOSES FIRST TODAY WILL HAVE TO MISS THIS YEAR'S MEIJIN QUALIFIER IN TWO WEEKS."

EH?

YOU'RE REALLY CANCELL-ING YOUR ENTRY ---?!

SUDOU-SAN, WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

YOU HEARD.

WE CAN'T DO OUR DAMNEST WITHOUT YOU, SUDOU-KUN!!!

SHUT UP, GEEZ! YOU PEOPLE NEED TO STOP RELYING ON ME AND JUST DO YOUR DAMNEST BY YOURSE---

IT WILL TAKE AN EPIC NOSE DIVE! FREE-FALLING DOWN TO THE DUMPS!!!

SUDOU-SAN, IF YOU DON'T PARTICIPATE, THE MORALE OF THE HOKUOU SOCIETY MEMBERS WILL...!!!

NOOO!

BUT I SURE AS FUCK AIN'T GONNA LET MYSELF BE INDEBTED TO YOU OVER A STUPID BET!

DON'T SCREW WITH ME! I MIGHT BREAK MY PROMISES,

HMMM?!

PLEASE DON'T CANCEL YOUR ENTRY, SUDOU-SAN, I DON'T MIND YOUR PARTICIPATION.

ARGH, GEEZ!

I AIN'T GONNA OWN YOU NOTHING!

I SAID NO! I AIN'T GONNA PARTICI-PATE!

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL OWE ME ANYTHING...

What a pain

IF YOU HAVE TO PLAY ME SOME TIME DURING THIS QUALIFIER, PLEASE FORFEIT.

THEN HOW ABOUT THIS:

HMPH ...

.....

The Joker

.....

MASHIMA IS SOME-THING...

HE'S JUST OBTAINED THE JOKER ...

PLEASE HAVE MINE!

NO, MINE!

WEAR MINE!

I DIDN'T BRING A T-SHIRT THOUGH.

MASHI-MA,

THIS DEAL WILL BE RENDERED MEANINGLESS IF YOU LOSE BEFORE MATCHING UP AGAINST ME.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE EASTERN JAPAN QUALIFIER.

#7

埼玉咲良会

MAKOTO, PRAY TELL WHY ARE YOU PARTICIPATING WHEN YOUR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER?

EH? BUT

RION IS PARTICI-PATING, AND YOROSHIKO, TOO...

BESIDES, EROMU IS ALSO HERE.

SAKURAZAWA-SENSEI'S RETURN TO THE QUEEN QUALIFIER...

EMURO-KUN, YOU ALSO SHOULD BE STUDYING FOR YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS, SO WHY...?

PLEASE DON'T ASK QUESTIONS WITH SELF-EVIDENT ANSWERS.

FUJISAKI

BACK IN ACTION ...!!!

HER KARUTA AND HER BOOBS...

I WANT TO SEE AND FEEL IT UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL...

ZZZ

MAMA,

MAMA, WAKE UP!

AKI, MAMA IS FEEDING YOUR BROTHER.

MAMA IS SLEEPING!

HAH

PAT PAT

JIN, HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH?

BURP

I'LL GO WIN SOME MATCHES, SO YOUR NEXT MEAL WILL BE IN THE AFTERNOON.

SO THIS IS THE KARUTA MEETING HALL, HUH.

WE'LL BE WATCHING FROM THE OUTSIDE?

WHY?

ガーン

EH?!

AYASE-SAN IS ON THE FIELD TRIP AND WON'T BE COMPETING?

ガーン

EH?

BUT THE MIZU-SAWA PRESIDENT IS HERE?

ハッピー

BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE PARTICIPATING AND THERE'S NO ROOM FOR SPECTATORS INSIDE, OBVIOUSLY..

TAICHI ...

T-

!?

I WANTED TO FIND OUT TO WHAT LIBRARY HE WAS GOING, BUT

WE SHALL NOW BEGIN DRAWING MATCHUPS FOR THE FIRST ROUND OF THE EASTERN JAPAN QUALIFIER.

TAICHI~~ ~~~~~~~~~

WELL THEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Western Japan Queen and Meijin Qualifier Venue

Oimejinguu Learning Center

AH HA HA HA

WELL, AS LONG AS THEY DRAG THE CURRENT MEIJIN OFF THE THRONE, I DON'T REALLY CARE WHO IT WILL BE.

I THINK

AND MURAO-KUN FROM THE NAGUMO SOCIETY STILL HAS HIS REVENGE TO TAKE.

THESE DAYS, YOUNG PLAYERS, BOTH MALE AND FEMALE, ARE ACTUALLY QUITE STRONG.

I WONDER HOW THIS YEAR'S QUALIFIER WILL GO

I WOULD LIKE FOR WATAYA ARATA-KUN TO WIN...

All-Japan High School Cultural Federation Karuta Division Yoshioka Hirokasu

HE'S STARTED TO REMIND

WATAYA-SENSEI MORE AND MORE, ESPECIALLY LATELY.

THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, YOSHIOKA-SENSEI.

WATAYA-SENSEI LOVED SANGYOU HOUSHI'S POETRY.

HIS INTELLI-GENCE ALSO SHONE THROUGH.

AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT THAT STRENGTH OF HIS HE WAS DISPLAYING DURING THE PERIOD WHEN HE HAD THE STRONGEST RIVAL, SATOU KIYOHIKO, DAN 9!

AND HE WASN'T JUST FAST.

HE ALSO HAD STYLE AND EDGE.

I'M SURE

I

HIS GRANDSON WILL LIVE UP TO OUR EXPECTA-TIONS!!

WHAT'S WRONG, ARATA?

Gulp

Gulp

Gulp

N-NO, NOTHING. ...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

IT HAS TO BE THAT.

THOSE BONITO SANDWITCHES WITH LOTS OF DRIED BONITO

WHAT HAVE I DONE.

THAT YUU, ENCOURAGED BY YESTER-DAY'S SUCESS, MADE AND GAVE ME IN THE MORNING.

from mom

I ATE TOO MUCH...

OF THAT WEIRD STUFF

FOR THE TIME BEING, I HAVE TO GO TO THE TOILET...

8 坪口 広史
9 荒川 雄幸
10 松木 素吉
11 大槻 建道
12 園田 雄
13
14

埼玉咲良
埼玉咲
府中白波
府中白波
府中白波
府中白波
府中白

IT CAN'T BE...

DON'T TELL ME...

THE DAY OF THE QUALIFER ARE ... BE IN KYOTO~

TAICHI?!

BUT CHIHAYA SAID THEY'D BE ON THEIR SCHOOL TRIP TODAY.

TAICHI ACTUALLY SERIOUSLY

AIMS TO BECOME THE MEIJIN ...?!

I NEVER THOUGHT HE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT IT.

TILL NOW, SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE I WAS SURE

IT WAS BORN SOLELY THANKS TO CHIHAYA'S PUSHY NATURE

THAT HE PLAYS KARUTA JUST TO KEEP CHIHAYA COMPANY...

D??

HEY, OVER THERE! KILL THE ENGINE!

THIS INSTANCE!

SHINOBU-CHAN?

TMP TMP TMP

pro slaps

PRESIDENT MASHITA, YOU SEEM TO BE INTENT ON BEING AWFULLY ACCOMODATING TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE, HUH!

NOT ONLY DO YOU GIVE OUT MY PHONE NUMBER TO ANYONE WHO ASKS, YOU EVEN GO AS FAR AS TELLING CERTAIN PEOPLE MY HOME ADDRESS!

AH... I-I'M SORRY ...

YOU CANNOT IMAGINE JUST HOW TERRIBLY GRATEFUL I AM TO YOU FOR PROVIDING A CERTAIN SOMEONE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUDDENLY DROP FROM THE SKIES ON MY HEAD!

I JUST THOUGHT THAT IF ANYONE HAD ENOUGH SPIRIT TO TURN HIM DOWN, IT WOULD BE YOU, THE QUEEN...

!!

ENDED UP GETTING DRAGGED INTO THE MEIJIN'S PACE...

SO-RRY~

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE EVEN YOU

OH, WHAT AN AMUSING JOKE.

I ONLY WANTED TO TRY OUT THE SI---

MEIJIN SUOU ...?!

DRR DRR DRR DRR

BUT STILL,

THAT SIDECAR WAS HER UNDOING

SHE TOTALLY WANTED TO TRY RIDING IN THE SIDECAR

SHE WANTED TO TRY OUT THE SIDECAR.

SHE WANTED TO TRY OUT THE SIDECAR

ON SECOND THOUGHT, NEVER MIND

.....

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BOTH THE MEIJIN AND THE QUEEN

EH?!

SO THIS IS SUOU HISASHI.

HERE

HERE

HERE

HERE COMES!

SHOWING UP AT THE WESTERN QUALIFIER...

WHY ON EARTH...?

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING HIM IN PERSON ...

I HEARD HE TOOK UP KARUTA ONLY IN COLLEGE

YOU DO COME ACROSS THEM, FROM TIME TO TIME.

THE GENIUSES WITH SUPER-SENSES.

I WATCHED IT TOGETHER WITH GRANDPA...

THE MEIJIN TITLE MATCH SERIES WHERE SUOU-SAN HAD BECOME THE MEIJIN FOR THE FIRST TIME..

ALTHOUGH I'VE SEEN HIM PLENTY OF TIMES ON THE TV...

COME TO THINK OF IT,

A DIFFICULT TASK.

BESTING A GENIUS IS

WILL PROBABLY BE THIS NEW MEIJIN.

THE ONE YOU'LL HAVE TO CHALLENGE IN THE FUTURE

SUOU-KUN, WHY ARE YOU HERE?

PRESIDENT! WOULD YOU LIKE A DORAYAKI?

DO YOU, PERHAPS, NEED SOME-THING?

EH? SORRY, BUT COULD YOU SPEAK LOUDER?

PRESIDENT! WOULD YOU LIKE A DORAYAKI?

MY HEARING IS REALLY POOR, SO PLEASE LOUDER.

.....

IN AN INTERVIEW SOME TIME AGO I THINK I SAID THAT I HAVE 28 ONE-SYLLABLE CARDS.

THE OTHER DAY I RECOUNTED THEM, AND IT'S ACTUALLY 27...

もぐもぐ

EH? 27 CARDS?

SO THE FIRST TIME YOU COUNTED WRONG?

OH, COME ON! GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER PLEASE!

LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO GET ENOUGH CREDITS TO PASS GERMAN I'VE BEEN FAILING.

SO I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO GRADUATE, I THINK.

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GREAT NEWS!

CONGRATULATIONS!

AT LAST! WELL DONE!

WHAT ABOUT EMPLOY-MENT?!

THE PLACE I'VE BEEN WORKING PART-TIME AT WILL HAVE ME AS A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE

I'M TIRED OF TAKING THIS PERSON SERIOUSLY

I WILL RETIRE

EH ...?

銘菓

奋月庵

THE MEIJIN

IS ANNOUNCING HIS RETIREMENT ...?!

ハッピーサヨナラ

HOO

RA~Y

AFTER TAKING HIS FIFTH TITLE, HUH...?!

SO KYOKO-TAN IS READING AT THE WESTERN QUALIFIER THIS YEAR?!

!!

KYOKO-TAN!!!

IT.MUST. BE.FATE! ♡

AND YET, DESPITE THAT, HE'S GOING TO 'RETIRE'.

HE WAS ABLE TO PICK UP AND SINGLE OUT HER VOICE FROM SO FAR AWAY AMIDST ALL THIS NOISE

IN A CROWDED PLACE LIKE THIS,

SO HE CAN SPEAK IN A LOUD VOICE, HUH

HE'S MAKING FOOLS OUTTA US

JUST LOOK AT HIM BEING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY ON HIS HIGH HORSE!

HE SAID IT LIKE HE'S ALREADY GOT HIS FIFTH TITLE BAGGED.

WANNA QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD, HUH?!

LIKE HELL WE'LL LET YA!

PHEW

CHAMP

CHAMP

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I'VE MADE A PROMISE WITH GRANDPA TO BECOME THE MEIJIN,

AND THIS IS MY DREAM.

REGARD-
LESS.

LET'S
GET
GOING.

.....

SHINOBU-
CHAN
IS HE
YOUR
FRIEND?

HE IS A STREAM

IN MY WAY...

let's go CABUTA!

PLAYERS OF THE SAME AGE ARE NO MATCH FOR HIM ANYMORE

.....

Why is he sending Arata a card!

THAT WAS ARATA'S TAKE JUST NOW!

.....

"I CAN FEEL THROUGH YOUR PLAY THAT YOU'RE NOT PICTURING YOURSELF WIN."

PICTURE IT.

PICTURE IT.

PICTURE MYSELF WIN.

THANK YOU FOR THE GAME.

...GLIMPSES OF HIS GRANDFATHER, MEIJIN WATAYA.

SUCH INTENSE FOCUS ...

YOU CAN'T HELP HAVING HIGH HOPES FOR HIM...

CHARL

...ONCE YOU SAW IN HIS YOUNG AND LEAN FRAME...

ヌーン

HOW'S TAICHI DOING ...

IT'S ALREADY NOON.

HOW'S THE EASTERN QUALIFIER GOING, I WONDER...

ﾌｧ

EEK!

EH?!

S-SUOU-SA--

GOOD AFTER-NOON.

I WAS WATCH-ING YOU.

SUCH A QUIET VOICE, JUST LIKE THE RUMORS SAY.

YOU'RE STRONG INDEED.

DROP

EH?

N-NO, I'M NOT REALLY ...

YOU WILL BECOME THE MEIJIN SOMEDAY.

N-NO, I...

BECOMING THE MEIJIN, I CAN'T HOPE...

BUT NOT

THE NEXT ONE.

I DON'T FEEL PUMPED UP WHEN I'M WATCHING YOU.

BYE-BYE.

MEANWHILE THE PROTAGONIST

WAS BUSY BEING LOST IN THE GARDENS OF THE GOLDEN PAVILION.

where are you—

shibuya. eh—?